

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 377

By Rinks

A RESOLUTION to recognize the Davy Crockett Charity Ride, and to honor and commend its many volunteers and its organizer, Phil Thomas.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Phil Thomas, the organizer, and the many volunteers in service to the Davy Crockett Charity Ride are numerous such estimable persons who evince the greatest integrity and probity in all their chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, on November 1, 1835, legendary Tennessean Davy Crockett left his home state for the last time to travel to Texas, and ultimately gave his life at the Battle of the Alamo; and

WHEREAS, November 1, 2003, marks the beginning of the Davy Crockett Charity Ride, a six-and-a-half week journey on horseback, wagon, and foot from Davy Crockett State Park in Lawrenceburg to the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas; and

WHEREAS, the ride has been organized by songwriter/storyteller, Phil Thomas, who has always been driven to explore uncharted territory, both personally and professionally; and

WHEREAS, having always felt a special kinship to fellow Tennessean Davy Crockett, it has been one of Mr. Thomas' lifelong dreams to ride horseback from Tennessee to the Alamo; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas has been greatly inspired by his grandson, Van Warden, an 8th generation Texan who has Down syndrome; Phil Thomas has dedicated his journey to raising awareness for Down syndrome; and

WHEREAS, Phil Thomas will be joined on his ride by Saddle Clubs from Tennessee, Mississippi, and Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas aspires to reach new levels in an unparalleled fashion, and he uniquely captures the true American pioneer spirit for the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, Phil Thomas and the Davy Crockett Charity Ride volunteers are wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and they should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize the Davy Crockett Charity Ride for Down syndrome, and honor and commend Phil Thomas and the many volunteers for their honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee and the nation and salute their unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.